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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Peter A. Koopman, et al. Examiner: TO BE ASSIGNED

Serial No.: TO BE ASSIGNED Art Unit: TO BE ASSIGNED

Filed: Herewith Docket: 10981AZ

For: SOX-9 GENE AND PROTEIN Dated: July 20, 2001

AND USE IN THE REGENERATION

OF BONE OR CARTILAGE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents United States Patent and Trademark Office Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In connection with the filing of the above-identified application, kindly enter the following preliminary amendments.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 7-10 to read as follows:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number: EL895322362US

Date of Deposit: July 20, 2001

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231.

Dated: July 20, 2001

Janet Grossman